

REMARKS

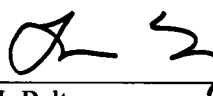
The foregoing amendments to the specification are made to claim priority to the earlier pending US patent application. Claims 1-186 have been cancelled in this Amendment without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter thereof. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications directed to the subject matter of any claim cancelled for any reason.

New claims 187-216 are presented for examination. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at pages 2 and 7 through 15. It is submitted that the new claims introduce no new matter and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to the undersigned's Deposit Account, No. 50-1067. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to the undersigned's Deposit Account, No. 50-1067.

Respectfully submitted,

2 March 2004


Don J. Pelto
Reg. No. 33,754

LAWRENCE SUT
REL 38.330
for

Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds LLP
1735 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 628-1700
Facsimile: (202) 331-1024